Magistrate, British Cochin, having written to the Plague Officer Mattancheri to do so;

(c) after issuing these notices whether arrangements to attend to the issuing of permits have been made; if so; what are they;

(d) under the above notices are the registered Medical Practitioners in Cochin State allowed to issue passes; if not, what objection do the Government observe in their doing so;

(e) what is the procedure directed by the Government to the Plague Officer, Mattancheri onthe question of issuing permits as referred to above?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. The arrangements made were printed permits in duplicate were supplied to the Medical Officers on plague duty and they were authorised to issue permits signed "for the Plague Officer" when he was not available to sign them in time.

(d) No. Government have no objection provided the permits are issued after the Plague Officer is also satisfied of the cause of death.

(e) None.

Plague in Kunnamkulam.

340. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) when they first got any information regarding suspected cases of death from plague in Kunnamkulam;

(b) the sources from which the Government got such information?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao—(a) 5-1-1935.

(b) From the General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Kunnamkulam.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Sir, I request that I may be allowed to club Questions 340-46, so that I can put supplementary questions covering all of them. They are all on the same subject.

President:— No harm.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— I find from these answers that they got information regarding suspected cases of death from plague in Kunnamkulam on 5-1-1935. Government seem to have taken some action and so late as 28th January their suspecions in the matter were confirmed on 28th January. We find it took nearly 10 or 12 days for the Government to issue orders declaring Kunnamkulam, plague affectd, i. e., on the 8th of February. What was the delay due to?

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Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— As all these questions have been clubbed together I may be permitted to give all the information that I have on the subject.

On the 5th January, the Diwan received a telegram regarding suspected deaths from plague in Kunnamkulam. The telegrams were from one, Dr. Narayana Menon and the other from the Secretary, Y. M. C. A. These telegrams were sent to me on the evening of the 5th. I proceeded to the place on the 6th. These people were not able to give me any definite information in spite of the fact that they sent the telegrams to the Diwan. "Plague suspected Kunnamkulam", "Some sudden deaths occurred suspecting plague". These were the two telegrams. I called on both. They were not able to give me any definite information which they came across personally. Then I went through the whole town and made enquiries. There was no history of rat-falls from any place. I made enquiries of those deaths that were supposed to have taken place. I went to the medical men who were treating these cases and they told me that the deaths were due to influenza and pneumonia. Therefore I returned and reported to the Government that there were no cases of plague, there was no history of rat-falls and the situation was being watched. Then again came further information by way of a telegram—"Plague prevalent—no Preventive measures taken, Secretary—Y. M. C. A." on the 24th January. On the 25th I again went. On that date I came to know from some people that there were rat-falls and some others denied the existence of rat-falls. No definite information however could be had. Then we came across two suspected cases of fever. Both had beubos. We took some smears and brought them here. On examination we found them plague positive. At once a slide was sent to Madras for confirmatory diagnosis. There also it was found to be positive. On the 30th January we received information from Madras saying that they were positive. At once a medical officer was deputed to the place to start inoculation and that was on the 31st of January. I got a report that there were two more cases and another Medical Officer was at once sent with the remaining inoculation outfit and vaccine that was available at Mattancherry and we started inoculation. On the 8th the Diwan received a telegram from the Town Club "Plague raging. Isolation sheds wanted etc." It was again forwarded to me. I again went to the place. We have taken every possible precaution at the earliest possible moment to check the spread of the disease. About 8 thousand people of the town have been inoculated, in the most expeditious way possible and all proper precautions have been taken to prevent spread of the disease and I am glad to say the disease is under check. All sorts of precautions have been taken to check the spread of the disease. On the 7th of February in order to get the co-operation of the

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local people we formed a vigilance committee consisting of 12 members who have been helping us in all sorts of ways.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Whether representations were made by the Trichur Municipality to have the area declared plague infected ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— No. I do not remember.

Mr. Paul Mampilli:—How many cases of deaths have occurred till now?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— 21 cases.

Dr. A. R. Menon:— Did not the C. M. O. get an official communication from the Trichur Municipality asking him whether there was plague in Kunnamkulam ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— I don't remember exactly.

Dr. A. R. Menon:— The diagnosis was completed on the 28th of January 1935. Then it seems that action was taken only on the 8th of February.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— The declaration took place on the 8th.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Out of the 21 who died, any from the well-to-do classes.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— We have not classified their riches.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Is the Hon'ble Member for Medicine in a position to say whether at least one was from the well-to-do classes ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao: — I have never enquired into their financial stability.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know, whether plague is still prevalent in Kunnamkulam ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— There are no fresh attacks. There are still two cases.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know Sir whether requests were not made to Government to make inoculation arrangements at Trichur and Wadakkancherry ? When inoculation was made at Trichur did not the Government realise the necessity for making inoculation arrangements at Wadakkancherri, a place only 13 miles away from Kunnamkulam ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:—The arrangements that were made at Trichur were by the individual efforts of the Chairman. It is not at all necessary to make arrangements either at Wadakkancherry or at Trichur.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—It was the Y. M. C. A. Secretary

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who gave the information first. Was not the Public Health Department functioning in that place then ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:—Yes, the Health Department was functioning.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— When did the rat falls occur? When was it noticed ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:—Rat falls were noticed long afterwards. Even when there was plague there, we were not able to get rats.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Did the sanitary staff try to get the information ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— We did not get any information about rat falls.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Whether there were arrangements made to go from house to house and see whether there were rat falls ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—When was the first examination conducted ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— Towards the end of January.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know what the delay was due to ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— They were not cases of plague.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— The Director of Public Health visited Kunnamkulam on the 8th of January. May I know which place he visited in Kunnamkulam ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— Did he visit the patients ? May I know whether he is inoculated ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— I don't know.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— When the Chief Medical Officer visited the place, may I know where the Health Officer was there?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— I have visited the place several times, and I believe on one or two occasions the Director of Public Health was with me.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— On the other occasions?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— He was away on special duty.

341. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) on which date did the Director of Public Health or the Chief Medical Officer or both visited Kunnamkulam pursuant on

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